

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed April 1, 2005. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5-22, and 33-47 were pending in this Application. Claims 4 and 23-32 were previously cancelled by Applicants. Claims 1-3, 5, 8-16, 22, and 38-42 were rejected. Claims 33-37 and 43-47 were allowed, and Claims 6, 7, and 17-21 were objected to. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the allowable subject matter in Claim 6 and Claim 6 has been cancelled. Claims 38-42 have been cancelled. New Claims 48-52 have been added to claim subject matter indicated as allowable. All amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed, and no new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Objections under 37 CFR 1.83(a)

Examiner has objected to the drawings for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the Claims under 37 CFR 1.83(a). Drawing Sheet 2, Figure 2 has been amended and Applicants submit herewith a corresponding Replacement Drawing Sheet and an annotated red-lined drawing page reflecting the changes.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate Examiner's consideration and indication that Claims 6, 7, and 17-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter formerly included in Claim 6, and Claim 6 has been cancelled. Claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form and presented as Claim 48.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and §103

Claims 1, 3, and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,923,017 issued to Roger L. Meek et al. ("Meek."). Claims 2 and 5 were rejected

under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meek. Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meek as applied to Claim 1 in view of U.S. Patent 4,030,551 issued to Charles Boetto et al. ("Boetto"). Claims 13-16 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meek as applied to Claim 1 in view of U.S. Patent 6,675,907 issued to Mark K. Moser et al. ("Moser"). Claims 38-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moser in view of Boetto.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite subject matter indicated as allowable and formerly included in Claim 6. Consequently, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

Inasmuch as Claims 1-3, 5, 7-16, and 22 have either been indicated as containing allowable subject matter or depend from allowable independent Claim 1, Claims 1-3, 5, 7-16, and 22 are themselves allowable. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request Examiner to withdraw the rejections and allow Claims 1-3, 5, 7-16, and 22 to issue.

New Claims 48-52

Independent Claim 48 recites subject matter indicated as allowable, and formerly included in Claim 17. Consequently, Applicants submit that Claim 48 is allowable, and respectfully request prompt allowance.

Inasmuch as Claims 49-52 depend from allowable independent Claim 48, Claims 49-52 are also allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 1-3, 5, 7-15, 22, 33-37, and 43-52.

Applicants enclose a check in the amount \$510.00 for the three-month filing fee for the Petition for Extension of Time. Applicants believe there are no additional fees due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, Applicants respectfully request that Applicants' attorney be contacted at 512.322.2673.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: September 30, 2005

Enclosures:

- 1) Replacement Drawing Sheet and an annotated red-lined drawing page reflecting the changes made to Drawing Sheet 2, Figure 2
- 2) Petition for Extension of Time including check for filing fee

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

In the Drawing:

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention as specified in the claims. Please replace Drawing Sheet 2, Figure 2 with the Replacement Drawing Sheet attached in the Appendix hereto. Applicants also submit an annotated red-lined drawing page reflecting the changes. The amendments are fully supported by the Application as originally filed, and no new matter has been added.

ANNOTATED
MARKEO-UP
DRAWING

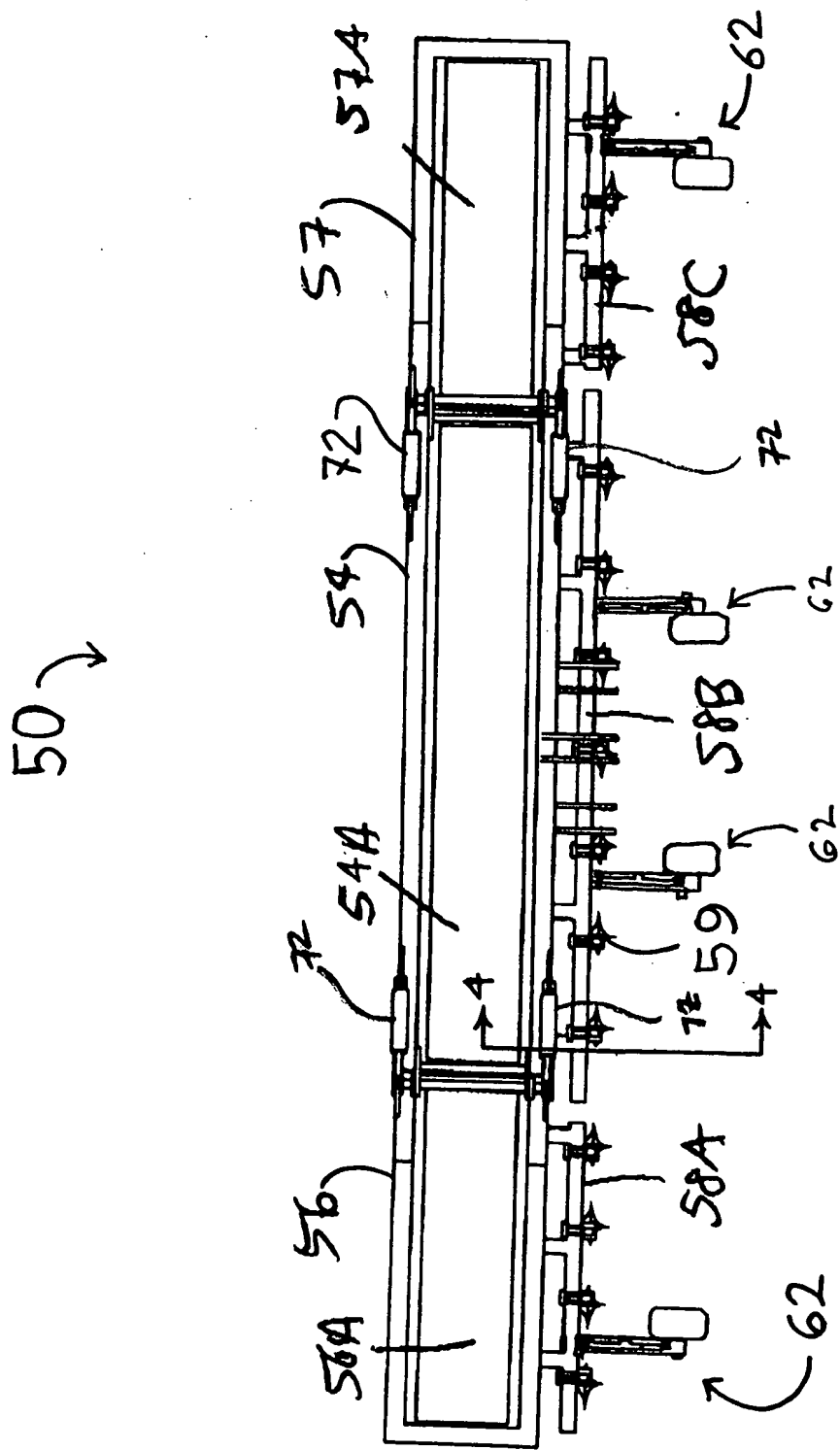


Fig. 2